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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 24, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 19, totaled an estimated 19.4 billion ton-miles, 9.5 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 38 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 664.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 4.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended September 19 totaled 436,550, up 8.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 15.6 percent above the preceding Labor Day Holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 5.7 percent in the East and up 11.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 18 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Coal increased by 8,051 cars (6.9 percent), while Grain showed a gain of 4,147 cars (14.0 percent). Twenty of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended September 12 totaled 89,396 trailers and/or containers, 12.2 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 37 weeks of the year was 3,595,336 trailers and/or containers, up 3.2 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/19/87:

	Loadings in Week ended September 19, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,682	I	4,147	14.0	I	5,494	19.5
Other farm products	4,004	I	321	8.7	I	844	26.7
Metallic ores	18,140	I	2,394	15.2	I	488	2.8
Coal	124,220	I	8,051	6.9	I	13,774	12.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,554	I	1,368	8.5	I	3,556	25.4
Nonmetallic minerals	10,816	I	943	9.6	I	1,353	14.3
Grain mill products	11,317	I	440	4.0	I	1,782	18.7
Food and kindred products	11,812	I	587	5.2	I	2,294	24.1
Primary forest products	11,120	I	458	4.3	I	2,220	24.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,510	I	418	5.2	I	1,650	24.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,656	I	16	0.1	I	952	8.1
Chemicals and allied products	27,603	I	1,970	7.7	I	4,106	17.5
Petroleum products	4,814	I	399	9.0	I	192	4.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,909	I	1,094	10.1	I	1,557	15.0
Coke	5,092	I	1,534	43.1	I	11	0.2
Metals and products	9,748	I	2,506	34.6	I	1,315	15.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,071	D	1,182	5.8	I	3,100	19.4
Waste and scrap materials	10,091	I	1,840	22.3	I	2,368	30.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,123	D	265	7.8	I	555	21.6
All other carloads	81,177	I	7,036	9.5	I	11,339	16.2
LCL traffic	91	D	24	20.9	D	10	9.9
Total Cars Loaded	436,550	I	34,051	8.5	I	58,940	15.6
Corresponding week of 1986	402,499						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (38 weeks)	14,942,695	14,341,803	I 4.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
37 Weeks ended September 12	644.8	617.4	I 4.4
Week ended September 19	19.4	17.7	I 9.5
38 Weeks cumulative	664.2	635.2	I 4.6

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